

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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DRC-01 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7375

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, XF, HA

SUBJECT: LEBANESE GOODWILL MISSION VISITS HAITI

1. LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER FOUAD NAFFAH, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ABBAS HAMIEH AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL SAID HIBRI, ARRIVED IN PORT-AU-PRINCE DECEMBER 30 FOR THREE-DAY OFFICIAL "GOODWILL" VISIT TO HAITI. LEBANESE OFFICIALS WERE MET ON THEIR ARRIVAL BY HAITIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADRIEN RAYMOND, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL RENE HYPPOLITE, AND A NUMBER OF NOTABLE FROM THE SIZEABLE LOCAL LEBANESE COMMUNITY. LEBANESE RESIDENTS HERE HOSTED RECEPTION FOR MISSION AT HOTEL VILLA CREOLE DECEMBER 30 AND REPORTEDLY ARE HANDLING OTHER ARRANGMENTS FOR VISIT.

2. OFFICIAL DAILY LE NOUVEAU MONDE, REPORTING ARRIVAL OF LEBANESE MISSION DECEMBER 31, STATES IT HAS COME "TO MEET WITH SEVERAL OFFICIALS OF (GOH) IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN TRADITIONAL TIES UNITING HAITI AND LEBANON." AS IF TO BALANCE REPORT OF LEBANESE MISSION, SAME PAPER ALSO FRONT-PAGES SEPARATE REPORT OF 12 HAITIANS DEPARTING FOR ISRAEL TO STUDY AT ISRAELI "AFRO-ASIAN INSTITUTE."

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3. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY LEBANESE MISSION HAS COME TO HAITI

WITH AN EYE TO COUNTERING INFLUENCE HERE OF ISRAELIS, WHO
ESTABLISHED RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN PORT-AU-PRINCE
EARLIER THIS YEAR AND HAVE HAD VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOH.
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